

Remarks

In the Office Action dated January 30, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 16 and 17, rejected claims 15-21 and 23-25 as indefinite, and rejected claims 15-21 and 23-26 and 34 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Vichai in view of Sanz and further in view of Lindsey. The foregoing amendments to claims 16 and 17 as suggested by the Examiner overcome the objections raised by the Examiner. The amendment also amends independent claim 15, cancels claim 35, and adds new claim 36. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in light of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 17 have been amend as proposed by the Examiner, and accordingly the Examiner's objections have been resolved.

Claim rejections under 35 USC§ 112

The Examiner's objections have been resolved as amended claim 15 clarifies that the seat and the closure form the integral unit. Further, claim 35 has been cancelled, thus obviating the Examiner's concerns.

Claim rejections under 35 USC§ 103(a)

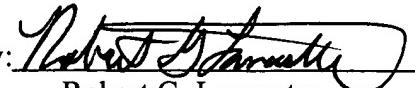
Claim 15 as amended includes the limitation of resistance to inwards deformation of the mouth of the body. This feature is of importance as described in connection particularly with the embodiments of Figures 6 and 8 of the application. In Figure 6 of the present application, the resistance is provided by a thick ring 48 around the mouth of the body. In Figure 8 the closure has an inner skirt 50 to provide the deformation resistance.

Amended claim 15 is directed to embodiments of the invention in which the body is configured to provide resistance to inwards deformation of the mouth. This feature is of importance as described in connection, particularly with the embodiments of Figures 6 and 8 of the application. The cited references do not disclose or suggest the feature of resistance to inwards deformation of the mouth nor do they delineate any means for providing resistance to inwards deformation. Therefore, this claim cannot be rendered obvious by the references. Similarly, since the rejected claims 16-21 and 23-25 are all dependent claims which depend from claim 15 and incorporate all of its limitations, these claims also are not obvious.

No new matter is added by the amendment to claim 15 or the new claim 36 because they are fully supported by the application as filed (e.g., FIGS. 6 and 8 and the corresponding descriptions on pages 10, lines 5-7 and page 11 lines 1-3).

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the basis of the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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